



One Hundred Tenth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20515

February 15, 2008

The Honorable Richard L. Skinner
Inspector General
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Inspector General Skinner:

I am writing to request that your office conduct an investigation into the recent tragic death of Michael Tony Futi, an infant, while in the custody of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) at the Honolulu International Airport.

News reports indicate that this tragedy occurred on Friday, February 8, 2008, while the 2-week old infant, his mother, and a nurse were traveling from American Samoa to Hawaii for urgent medical care for the baby due to a heart defect. According to media reports, the three travelers were placed in a holding cell while CBP personnel addressed alleged visa issues related to the boy's mother.

I am requesting that your office review this situation immediately to determine the chain of events that led to the death, the rationale for detaining the infant and nurse (both of whom are United States citizens), and the CBP procedures and policies to recommend changes, if appropriate, to ensure that a tragedy such as this does not happen again.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter. Please contact Mandy Bowers of my staff at (202) 226-8417 if you have any questions and to provide any information from your investigation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peter T. King".

PETER T. KING
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson, Chairman
Secretary Michael Chertoff, Department of Homeland Security